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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1411th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 7 August 1992, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea)
(Vice-Chairman)

- 99th Report of the Working Group

- Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international imstitutions associated with the United Nations

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- Activities of those foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa

- Military activities and arrangements by colonial powers in territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

- Closing of the Special Committee meetings in 1992

The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

99th REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP (A/AC.109/L.1791)

The CHAIRMAN: The first item on the agenda of this meeting is the 99th report of the Working Group, contained in the document A/AC.109/L.1791.

With regard to the programme budget implications of proposals contained in paragraph 13 of the report, I now call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. De SOUZA (Secretary of the Committee)(interpretation from French): In accordance with custom, I shall now read to the Committee the following statement from the Programme Planning and Budget Division:

(spoke in English)

"The report of the Working Group of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples - the Special Committee of 24 - contained in document A/AC.109/L.1791, contains a number of recommendations, some of which may give rise to additional requirements in the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

"It will be recalled, however, that in the programme budget of the Special Committee of 24, resources were provided to enable the Committee to carry out its programme of work. Based on experience during the past bienniums, a number of additional activities in the programme of work of the Committee have been accommodated from within the total resources already available to the Committee.

"In connection with the requirements for the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee, and the holding of a regional seminar in 1993 in the

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Pacific region, a review of the total resources required for the implementation of those recommendations would be undertaken at the end of 1992 at the time of the consideration of the General Assembly of the report of the Special Committee during its forty-seventh session. A determination of the extent of additional resources required, if any, would be made at that time.

"The recommendations of the Special Committee, including its programme of work, which give rise to additional requirements, are approved by the General Assembly annually in a number of resolutions, the most recent being resolutions 46/71 and 46/181. At that time the financial implications of additional requirements which may arise as a result of the recommendations of the Working Group, should the Special Committee approve them, would be presented to the General Assembly in the context of the programme budget implications arising from the recommendations of the Special Committee."

The CHAIRMAN: In relation to the report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.1791), I should like to draw members' attention to paragraph 7 on page 3, "Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee". In this regard, a number of Member States have suggested that an amendment should be made to accommodate the issues that are within the mandate of the Committee.

The suggested amendment is that a reference to principles contained in resolution 1514 (XV) should be inserted in the middle of the fourth line of paragraph 13, under subtitle 7. Following the words "Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism," the words "and in accordance with the principles contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)," should be inserted, to be followed by "the Working Group decided to".

I have, in this regard, consulted with a number of members of the Committee and see no difficulties for this proposed amendment.

Are there any comments from members specifically on this point? If there are none, I shall take it that the Committee accepts this insertion as part of the report.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any members who wish to make any further comments on the report?

If there are none, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to adopt the report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.1791) without a vote.

It was so decided.

Mr. SLABY (Czechoslovakia): My delegation did not join the consensus on the draft report of the Special Committee's Working Group contained in document A/AC.109/L.1791, mainly because of its serious

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reservations about paragraph 13 and the Annex. Had the draft document been put to the vote, my delegation would not have been in a position to support it.

Before I attempt to explain my delegation's position, I should like to stress that this position cannot be understood as an objection to the fullest possible participation of the Non-Self-Governing-Territories' representatives in the work of the Committee of 24; the opposite is true. We welcome their deeeper involvement in our business, but on the conditions of rationality, effectiveness and benefit to our work, and on the condition that such involvement will improve the style and methods and increase the acceptability of this body.

The paper we are discussing does not meet these requirements. Its language and spirit do not reflect the proper goal of our work. My delegation raised a number of proposals and ideas of this kind. For example, when addressing the organizational meeting of the Committee of 24 in February 1992, we said, "It would be to the point, in our view, to cut the funds allocated for the activities of the Committee of 24 below the 1989 level" (A/AC.109/PV.1398, p. 28, para. 2). We wish to reconfirm this position.

My delegation believes that this Committee does not suffer from a lack of information from the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In the first place, there is one source of information stipulated in Article 73 e of the Charter, and it works.

Secondly, the Secretariat always prepares its annual working papers referring to every particular Territory and the Subcommittee is always able to make its careful consideration on the basis of these papers.

Thirdly, there are other United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization that we

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can ask to provide us with useful information on Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Fourthly, we have the annually held regional decolonization seminars designed precisely to serve the goal in question.

Fifthly, there are visiting missions, although this approach has not worked very well in recent years.

But there are also other possibilites for establishing contact with Non-Self-Governing Territories, and now it is the Committee of 24 itself which, unfortunately, is not using them as it should.

Sixthly, we ourselves have the opportunity to obtain information by using paragraph 4 of the Working Group's report just approved regarding the Committee's representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations. I refer to that paragraph in the light of the fact that just in recent weeks the Committee of 24, by its inability to respond positively to some invitations received, missed some good chances to establish contacts with the representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories and to obtain some useful and direct information.

And there is another possibility, the seventh one, which is not exploited at all by the Committee of 24, although it is more effective and less expensive than any other option. Why does the Committee of 24 not seek the answers it needs by sending questions to the Territorial Governments in writing?

I am coming to a conclusion. The personal participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories' representatives, funded by the United Nations budget, should have been considered as merely a complementary source of information from the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which has its place after

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all the other possibilites I have mentioned - and I can imagine even more - have been exhausted. Furthermore, it should be strictly limited to necessary dimensions.

We would have had no objections if the guidelines were prepared well, in a balanced, fact-based and reasonable manner, and if there were no additional financial implications. My delegation received the information that the programme budget implications of the report are expected to be about $56,000 per year. Under these circumstances, the delegation of Czechoslovakia would be pleased to support such a draft.

Mr. DZAKHAYEV (Russia) (interpretation from Russian): The Russian delegation favours participation in the work of the Committee by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories, which is an important mehtod for obtaining information concerning the state of affairs in those Territories and for adopting the appropriate decisions with due regard for that information.

(Mr. Dzakhayev, Russian Federation)

At the same time, we believe, more active use should be made of the options provided for in Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations. A number of specialized agencies, inter alia, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), participate in various programmes for Non-Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs); these also could provide needed information.

Furthermore, full use is not being made of the opportunities afforded by the regional seminars held by the Committee of 24, which are designed for just such a purpose as supplying information for our Committee. Obviously, other possibilities could also be considered.

On the whole, we favour the participation of representatives of NSGTs in our work and favour making maximum use of the information received from them; however, given the difficult financial situation that the United Nations is now experiencing, we feel that it would be an unjustified step to request additional allocations for those representatives' participation in the work of the Special Committee. Other funding possibilities should also be found in the context of the programme already adopted in connection with the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, which is referred to inter alia in document A/C.5/46/80 of the past session of the General Assembly. For this reason, our delegation cannot fully agree with the guidelines proposed in document A/AC.109/L.1791 concerning the financing of participation by representatives of NSGTs in the work of the Committee of 24.

However, prompted by a spirit of cooperation, we did not block the adoption without a vote of this document. We believe that the document will

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not lead to additional expenditures under the regular budget for the total cost of the activities of the Special Committee on decolonization and that the secretariat of our Committee will submit its views on ways of saving funds in order to finance the participation of NSGT representatives during both the present and subsequent budget cycles.

Mr. MIHOV (Bulgaria): My delegation welcomes the idea of wider participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs) in the work of the Special Committee, as this could be a useful source of additional information. At the same time, we should like to state briefly that we share the reservations that have been voiced by other representatives with regard to paragraph 13. We believe that such a measure would be useful if it could be accommodated within the existing budget without additional financial implications. In this sense, we cannot fully support the guidelines in question, but we do not oppose the adoption without a vote of this document.

Mr. KEMBER (New Zealand): As you know, we have collaborated with the Bureau of your Committee in the preparation of this report and the annexed guidelines, and, needless to say, we have done so in the spirit of the importance that New Zealand attaches to the Charter principles on decolonization. However, I must state for the record that my Government has considerable reservations about paragraph 13 and the attached guidelines on funding representatives from Non-Self-Governing Territories. This is not to say that we do not support the principle, because, as the record will show, in the case of Tokelau, representatives come to the United Nations on a regular basis to give information, a practice that will continue irrespective of the report just adopted.

(Mr. Kember, New Zealand)

Secondly, New Zealand has reservations about a situation in which the Committee of 24 communicates directly with Territories, and we are pleased to see that that reservation has been addressed to some extent in paragraph 9 of the guidelines.

Our third and perhaps most important reservation is on the question of finance. We have taken due note of the statement of the Secretary of the Committee regarding possible budgetary implications and the fact that this will be addressed in another Committee in due course, to which we will pay proper attention at that time, but we do support reservations expressed by the delegation of the Russian Federation and others about possible augmentation of funding requirements in respect of this report.

As I have mentioned already, the New Zealand Government will, of course, encourage on a regular basis the participation of representatives of Tokelau at meetings of your Committee in New York, and we expect a Visiting Mission in Tokelau in due course and in the not too distant future.

The CHAIRMAN: As there are no other statements, I should like to make a few remarks.

First, the Committee does not wish to give the impression that it does not encourage direct participation by the territorial Governments of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs); it simply feels that attention should be given to budgetary considerations in other areas rather than the funding of one single representative from the NSGTs, in relation to the subject of this decision. I believe that the amount involved here is quite minimal.

The other remark that I should like to place on record is that participation by NSGTs is important not only in order to provide valuable

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information on their view of the situation in those Territories but also in order to ensure that representatives of the territorial Governments are given an opportunity to interact with other Governments within the context of the United Nations, regional organizations and the international community. One day they will become independent or self-governing, at which time they will have to take on the responsibilities that are now being shouldered by States Members of the United Nations and others. Participation in our Committee's work represents an important opportunity for them to obtain the educational experience of interacting with the international community, and they, as members of that international community, have the right to know where they stand in the context of international relations.

(The Chairman)

As we experienced at the Rio Summit on Environment and Development, we cannot exclude the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, because they have land, they have forests, they have seas, they have coral, and therefore, if we are to take effective decisions in relation to the improvement of the conditions of our Earth and its people, then we must take into consideration their involvement and participation.

We have thus concluded the discussion on this item.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (A/AC.109/L.1790)

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to draw members' attention to draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1790 on this item. The document was circulated yesterday morning.

The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1790. I shall now call on those members who wish to explain their votes before the voting.

Miss KETE (Côte d'Ivoire) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, you submitted the draft resolution on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence which appears in document A/AC.109/L.1790.

My delegation hopes with all its heart to see the coming of the democratic, united and non-racist South Africa for which the draft resolution calls, and it does not want to do anything that would prevent the realization of that hope. Rather, the delegation of Côte d'Ivoire favours removing obstacles to the resumption of negotiations by establishing conditions favourable to dialogue in order to promote the elimination of apartheid.

Mr. DZAKHAYEV (Russian Federation) (interpretation from Russian): The Russian delegation, in its activities in the Committee of 24, proceeds from the premise that there is a need to transform this Committee into a machinery for cooperating constructively and for working out solutions that would be of practical significance and in keeping with the interests of the peoples of the remaining colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories. In that connection, we are gratified by the efforts of our Committee, expecially those of its Chairman, Ambassador Lohia, aimed at improving the methods of operation of the Committee of 24; such improvement is very important, and what has been done so far has already had a beneficial effect on a number of the decisions the Committee has taken.

Unfortunately, the draft resolutions and draft decision before us in documents A/AC.109/L.1789, L.1790 and L.1792 concerning economic and military activities in colonial Territories and the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization by the specialized agencies in the United Nations system do not adequately reflect the complex negotiating process taking place in South Africa with a view to eliminating apartheid. Like in last year's decisions of the Committee, these drafts ignore the fact that South Africa acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1991 and that its Government has concluded a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Moreover, the language proposed in these drafts is far from the consensus wording adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 46/79 A on the question of apartheid and, in particular cases, also differs from that of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa. We should also like to recall the report of the Working Group

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(A/AC.109/L.1756) which was approved by the Committee and paragraph 22 which refers to a Working Group decision to the effect that the issue of wording would be further considered in the substantive deliberations on the resolutions and decisions of the Committee. Unfortunately, that work has not been carried out.

The Russian delegation also considers its inappropriate to include in the decisions taken by this Committee any issues that are unrelated to the Committee's mandate and should be considered under the relevant items on the agendas of other United Nations bodies.

With this in mind, the Russian delegation will vote against the proposed draft resolution on the implementation by the specialized agencies in the United Nations system on the Declaration on decolonization and also against the draft resolution and draft decision on economic and military activities in the colonial Territories.

Our delegation expresses the hope that what will prevail in the United Nations bodies that deal with problems of decolonization, first and foremost in the Committee of 24, will be the will to work out agreed solutions aimed at achieving the main purpose: elimination of colonialism as early as it is practically possible.

Mr. MIHOV (Bulgaria): On many occasions, my delegation has stressed the need to rationalize the work of our Committee in conformity with the changes in today's world. Such a development, we are convinced, would enhance the effectiveness of the Committee's activities in the best interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Progress in that direction has already been made, thanks to the efforts of the whole of the Committee and, primarily, to those of its Chairman.

(Mr. Mihov, Bulgaria)

At the same time, my delegation would like to place on record its dissatisfaction and disappointment with regard to the texts of the two draft resolutions and the draft decision submitted to the Committee today, i.e., documents A/AC.109/L.1789, L.1790 and L.1792. Despite our hopes that a more flexible and practical approach would be adopted this year, an approach that would enable all of us to seek consensus, we find ourselves again confronted with documents that bear the marks of past controversies and that are burdened with outdated and confrontational languague and irrelevant issues.

Such resolutions, we are convinced, are not going to contribute to the improvement of the effectiveness of the Committee's work nor will they serve the interests of the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In those circumstances, my delegation has no option but to vote against the three drafts in question.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now vote on draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1790.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

Draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1790 was adopted by 18 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has thus concluded consideration of the item.

ACTIVITIES OF THOSE FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH IMPEDE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (A/AC.109/L.1789)

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to draw the attention of members to draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1789. Before taking action on that draft resolution, I wish to draw the attention of members to the change in the title of the item, by which the word "those" was inserted before the words "foreign economic and other interests" and the words "are impeding" were replaced by the word "impede".

If there are no comments, I shall take it that members are in agreement with the change in the title.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall communicate the new wording of the item just adopted by the Committee to the President of the General Assembly so that appropriate action may be taken by the Assembly.

Since no delegation wishes to make a statement in explanation of vote before the voting, the Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1789.

A vote was taken by show of hands

Draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1789 was adopted by 17 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has thus concluded consideration of the item.

MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS BY COLONIAL POWERS IN TERRITORIES UNDER THEIR ADMINISTRATION WHICH MIGHT BE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (A/AC.109/L.1792)

The CHAIRMAN: Since there are no speakers on the draft decision contained in document A/AC.109/L.1792, which was circulated yesterday morning, the Committee will now take action on the draft decision.

Draft decision A/AC.109/L.1792 was adopted by 17 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their vote after the voting.

Mr. LOTFI (Islamic Republic of Iran): My delegation has consistently supported the process of decolonization aimed at eradicating colonialism, therefore, in spite of having a problem with the deletion of the name of Israel from paragraph 8 of the draft decision, it supported and voted in favour of the draft resolution in document A/AC.109/L.1789.

However, my delegation believes that the nuclear and military cooperation between Israel and South Africa has contributed to the continuation of the existence of the apartheid system in South Africa and is still an obstacle to the establishment of a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa.

Therefore, my delegation requests that its reservation on paragraph 8 of the draft decision should be recorded.

The CHAIRMAN: The remarks made by the representative of Iran are noted and will be recorded accordingly.

Mr. SLABY (Czechoslovakia): My delegation will speak in explanation of its vote on all three drafts which the Committee has just adopted, namely,

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on activities of foreign economic and other interests in the Territories, on military activities and arrangements in the Territories and on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies.

My delegation has stated several times that Czechoslovakia supports full observance of the Declaration on decolonization and supports the completion of the decolonization process. We consider it important to restate this precisely in the context of what has just been adopted. What my delegation specifically has in mind is that the question of the eradication of the remnants of colonialism should be approached by the United Nations in a fundamentally new way which would emanate from the spirit of our times.

The delegation of Czechoslovakia regrets that the discussion held earlier in the Committee of 24 had not produced texts more in keeping with present-day realities. The language of the drafts submitted to the Committee by the Chairman of the Committee and contained in documents A/AC.109/L.1789, L.1790 and L.1792 is, when compared with developments, more unacceptable to my delegation than the same texts, with some slight changes of no significance, that were submitted by the Committee of 24 to the General Assembly last year.

Texts like these should not continue to be submitted by the Committee to the General Assembly. They are outdated, obsolete and wordy and do not reflect the developments in the areas concerned and in the world. They are controversial, and many of their provisions have no direct linkage with the items under consideration and deal with the question of apartheid, which is not, my delegation believes, on the agenda of the Special Committee. They use an outdated ideology and make no attempt to integrate new thinking on developments, nor do they address the many beneficial aspects of foreign investments in Non-Self-Governing Territories.

(Mr. Slaby, Czechoslovakia)

My delegation also has reservations regarding those paragraphs which disregard the division of competence between the General Assembly and the Security Council under the United Nations Charter. The texts in no way serve the interests of the territorial peoples. And, finally, they create a grave obstacle to possible consensus in the General Assembly.

The Committee, by adopting these texts, completely denied its own decision; my delegation is referring to paragraph 13 of the report of the Working Group contained in document A/AC.109/L.1776, which the Committee has approved.

The Committee has thus, despite the efforts of some members, and although some very slight changes have already been made, proved that it is still far from able to improve its outdated, obsolete and useless approach to the noble goal of eradicating colonialism by the year 2000.

The CHAIRMAN: Unless any delegation wishes to explain its vote, the Committee has thus concluded consideration of all substantive items on the agenda.

I now call on the representative of Sierra Leone, who wishes to make a statement on behalf of the Group of African States.

Mr. BANGALI (Sierra Leone): Mr. Chairman, my delegation wishes to commend you for the excellent manner in which you have conducted the affairs of the Committee.

It was this delegation's privilege to have chaired this Committee for a good number of years some time ago. During those years, we were fortunate to know exactly what it took then - and we know what it takes now - to carry out the functions of the Committee. My delegation would like to reiterate its satisfaction over and confidence in the skill and understanding with which you continue to preside over our deliberations.

(Mr. Bangali, Sierra Leone)

I take this opportunity also to express our appreciation to the Secretariat and the members of the Committee for the fine work they have done in fulfilling the responsibilities of the Committee.

My delegation realizes that it is not unusual for countries to disagree, or even view with displeasure, positions or perceptions subscribed to by others. It is inconceivable that all countries should hold identical positions on a given issue at any given time. Yet there is an incontestable principle that should remain valid and enduring with the passing of time.

To this end then, the Group of African States, for which I have the honour to speak, and on behalf of my own delegation, I wish to express our sincere appreciation for the Special Committee's understanding in asserting Africa's position when dealing with the questions of apartheid and South Africa in the Special Committee.

On behalf of the Group of African States, my delegation would like to thank the Committee for its work in updating all the draft resolutions of the Special Committee, leaving the substance and language unchanged, as adopted last year by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

The Group of African States would like to congratulate the Committee for submitting separately the present draft resolution on "Activities of those foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa" and the draft decision on "Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples".

(Mr. Bangali, Sierra Leone)

My delegation, on behalf of the Group of African States, reiterates its faith in the work of the Committee, and is always ready to cooperate fully in bringing to a close the questions of apartheid in South Africa and the final phase in the process of decolonization.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Sierra Leone for the very kind words he addressed to me.

I now call on the representative of Venezuela on a point of order.

Mr. MANZANARES VELOS (Venezuela) (interpretation from Spanish): I apologize for asking to speak at this time on draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1789, but I would simply ask that the title of the draft resolution, which has now been adopted, be repeated, since it was not clear from the Spanish rendering.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the Secretary of the Committee to confirm the exact title of the resolution.

Mr. De SOUZA (Secretary of the Committee) (interpretation from French): I shall read out the title again, in English,

(spoke in English)

"Actitivies of those foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa".

Mr. MANZANARES VELOS (Venezuela) (interpretation from Spanish): I crave the Committee's indulgence yet again, but the rendering that I just heard reflecting the change that was made in the English language version with the introduction of the word "those" did not come out in the Spanish text. I am not sure whether this was due to its rendering or interpretation, but I

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imagine that when the Secretariat gets down to actually editing the text of this draft resolution, it will reflect the word "those", which does not appear in the Spanish language version, which does make a difference.

The CHAIRMAN: The comments of the representative of Venezuela are duly noted and the necessary correction will be made by the Secretariat.

CLOSING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN 1992

The CHAIRMAN: As the Committee is about to conclude its work for 1992, may I first of all take this opportunity to thank you all for the efforts you have once again devoted to the situation in the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories under the purview of the Committee. Looking back on the work accomplished since February of this year, we can reasonably say that we have gone a step further in the revitalization of the work of the Committee and the improvement of our approach to decolonization issues. The open-ended Working Group that the Committee established at the beginning of its session held no fewer than 19 meetings during which it conducted a thorough review of a number of issues and made important recommendations to the Committee. Those recommendations, which the Committee endorsed, were among the guiding principles of this resumed session.

We wasted no time either when it came to the implementation of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. The Committee has contributed to the implementation of the work of the General Assembly and has had its share of activities in relation to the Plan of Action.

We have conducted extensive consultations with the administering Powers with a view to improving the Committee's relationship and cooperation with them - all of them. We have intensified the dialogue with the representatives of the peoples of the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. We have

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encouraged them to participate in the work of the Committee and suggested constructive measures to facilitate such participation. We have continued and, in many instances, initiated consultations with the regional groups concerned, and, in so doing, we have done our best to dispel misunderstandings and harmonize views on how best the international community can assist the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

(The Chairman)

We have invited and encouraged those organizations and institutions to increase their assistance to those Territories in the regional context and to facilitate their integration into their respective regions. Last but not least, we organized the first regional seminar of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, which took place in Grenada from 17 to 19 June 1992. It was an important event indeed, and I want to take this opportunity to thank, once again, the Government, the Permanent Represenative and the people of Grenada for their cooperation and the hospitality they extended to the Committee in hosting the seminar.

During the three days of the seminar, represenatives of Non-Self-Governing-Territories, eminent personalities, scholars and representatives of regional and non-governmental organizations who responded to our invitation conducted a thorough review of the main challenges facing the Caribbean Non-Self-Governing island Territories. I have no doubt that the conclusions and recommendations that the seminar submitted will continue to guide the Committee in the years to come.

This resumed session has indeed been very active. Significant efforts have been made to focus our attention on the current situation in the Territories; the accuracy of the resolution we have adopted bears witness to the thoroughness of our consideration of those Territories. The Bureau met throughout the session to prepare the work of the Committee and to facilitate its consideration of some of the Committee's traditional resolutions. While it is true that significant progress has been achieved in the search for a broad consensus on some resolutions and decisions, more remains to be done. As I have consistently said, the revitalization of the Special Committee is a continuing process. I therefore remain confident that, in the long run, our

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continuing efforts will yield the apppropriate positive, constructive results, in the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing and other colonial Territories.

As we come to the close of our work, I should like to express my sincere gratitude to all the members of the Committee. Your cooperation and commitment have been particularly important in carrying out our common responsibilities. It has indeed been an honour for me to preside over the deliberations of the Committee this year.

It is also a pleasure for me, on behalf of my Government, to inform the Committee that the Government of Papua New Guinea will be willing to host the Pacific seminar for 1993, in relation to the Programme of Action for the Eradication of Colonialism by the year 2000.

I am indeed thankful to you all and in particular to the three Vice-Chairmen: Ambassador Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada of Cuba, who, I am glad to point out, has been named Foreign Minister of his country, and I should like to express our congratulations through the Cuban delegation on his elevation to that high post; Mr. Alexander Slaby of Czechoslovakia; and Mr. Andrew Bangali of Sierra Leone for their active participation in the work of the Committee.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank our Rapporteur, Mr. Mohammad Najdat Shaheed of the Syrian Arab Republic for his contribution. My thanks also go to Ambassador Amor Ardhaoui of Tunisia and Mr. Hossein Lotfi Hormozabadi of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the excellent work they have performed as, respectively, Chairman and Rapporteur of the Subcommittee.

I should like to express the appreciation of the Committee for the cooperation of the administering Powers, particularly those that have

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participated in the work of the Committee and in the deliberations of the Working Group. I am sure the Committee has taken due note of their concerns and views and intends to continue to give them its serious attention. We in turn look forward to their favourable consideration of our recommendations and numerous appeals regarding their participation in the work of the Committee, the resumption of visiting missions and the restoration of a climate of confidence and cooperation.

I am also grateful to the specialized agencies that have provided information to the Committee. On behalf of the Committee I should like to express my profound gratitude to the representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories who have travelled a long way to apprise the Committee of the situation in their respective Territories. My thanks also go to the petitioners who provided us with most valuable information.

Last but not least, I should like to convey the gratitude of the Committee to the staff of the Secretariat - interpreters, translators, members of the Secretariat of the Special Committee and all those who have worked behind the scenes to assist the Committee in its work.

I hope the future work of the Committee will continue to contribute to the task of completing the eradication of colonialism, racism and apartheid as soon as possible.

I declare the 1992 session of the Special Committee concluded.

The meeting rose at 11:50 a.m.